Remarks

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claim 18 as being non-statutory. However, the rejection is moot in view of the amendment to claim 18 above.

The Examiner correctly notes that the invention can be implemented in hardware, software or combinations thereof. In the particular case of claim 18, the decoder now includes at least one hardware element, namely, a memory. The other elements can be implemented in hardware, software, or combinations thereof.

Respectfully submitted,

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